Pending court cases

405. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases pending where both petitioner and defendent are Government or its Departments;

(b) the percentage of such cases with regard to total pending cases;

(c) whether Government are planning any steps for a speedy disposal of such cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The information is being obtained from the High Courts and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts and Fast Track Courts etc.

Vacations in courts

406. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has suggested to judiciary to cut down vacations to help clear pending cases while addressing the meeting of Chief Justices and CM's on the 18th September, 2004;

(b) if so, the judiciary's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of cases pending in various High Courts as on the 13th September, 2004; and

(d) the steps being taken by the judiciary to expedite disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.